# DFT models

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### **DFT** models

- neural process models of sensori-motor behavior and cognition
- a spectrum of models that vary in how close and realistic the link to the sensory and motor surfaces is..
- => different interfaces to experimental observation

by mapping states of the model onto behavioral states/ measures

example: RT

- map experimental conditions onto sets of inputs and their time structure
- in experiment, measure time to initiation of movement (reaction time) and compare in model to time for activation to reach a criterion level

[Grieben et al. Attention, Perception & Psychophysics (2020)]



#### => I will lecture about that now

- by linking DFT models to realistic sensor/motor models
- example: relational cognition: video input => categorical decisions



[Richter et al. TopiCS(2017)]

- by linking DFT models to realistic sensor/motor models
- => lectures by Raul Grieben, Mathis Richter

# DFT models that account for neural data

by mapping states of the model onto neural measures

example:

time courses of voltagesensitive dye imaging on visual cortex





# DFT models that account for neural data

- I touched upon this briefly, will not expand
- => current work by John Spencer, Aaron Buss and others



[Bastian, Riehle, Erlhagen, Schöner, 98]

# DFT models that account for behavioral competences

- by linking DFT models to real sensors/motor systems
  - example: online updating
    - DFT model receives camera input
    - and drives a robotic arm
    - DFT model solved numerically on computers in real time
    - a real scenario emulates "online updating" of movement

[Knips et al., Frontiers Neurorobotics (2017)]



# DFT models that account for behavioral competences

- by linking DFT models to real sensors/motor systems
- => lecture by Jan Tekülve

# DFT models that account for neural processes and behavioral competences

- by implementing DFT models directly on neuromorphic hardware and link it to real sensors/motor systems and
  - example: sequence generation on vehicle
    - event based camera
    - drives vehicle
    - DFT model on neuromorphic chip

[Kreiser et al., Frontiers Neuroscience (2018)]





# DFT models that account for neural processes and behavioral competences

by implementing DFT models directly on neuromorphic hardware and link it to real sensors/motor systems and

=> lecture by Yulia Sandamirskaya

#### Selection decisions

multiple localized inputs... one of which is selected for the generation of a supra-threshold peak



#### Selection decisions

selecting a new saccadic target location every ~300 ms



[O'Reagan et al., 2000]

#### Selection decisions are stable in DFT



#### Experimental paradigm



[after: Ottes et al., Vis. Res. 25:825 (85)]

[after Kopecz, Schöner: Biol Cybern 73:49 (95)]

#### Time course of selection decision



### Neural dynamic account?

so far we assumed that a single population of activation variables has both the excitatory and the inhibitory coupling required to make peaks attractors



#### But: Dale's law

every neuron forms only one type of synapse on the neurons it projects onto: either excitatory or inhibitory



#### Instead: 2-layer neural fields

- Inhibitory coupling is mediated by inhibitory interneurons that
  - are excited by the excitatory layer
  - and in turn inhibit the excitatory layer



[chapter 3 of the book]

#### Math of 2 layer Amari fields

$$\tau_{u}\dot{u}(x,t) = -u(x,t) + h_{u} + s(x,t) + \int k_{uu}(x-x')\sigma(u(x',t))dx' - \int k_{uv}(x-x')\sigma(v(x',t))dx' \tau_{v}\dot{v}(x,t) = -v(x,t) + h_{v} + \int k_{vu}\sigma(u(x',t))dx'$$

#### with projection kernels

$$k_{ab}(x - x') = c_{ab} \exp\left(-\frac{(x - x')^2}{2\sigma_{ab}^2}\right) \qquad \{a, b\} \in \{u, v\}$$

### Time course of selection decision

- initially input-dominated
- excitatory interaction arises as once the excitatory field goes through threshold
- inhibition arises only after that has happened... when inhibitory field exceeds threshold => begin to see inhibitory interaction



#### Time course of selection decision





#### => early fusion, late selection



#### (2 layer fields afford oscillations

will be important for movement generationand for sequence generation...)

# Selection decisions in the laboratory

- most experiments in cognition entail selection decisions!
- in most of these paradigms an imperative signal uniquely specifies the "correct" response
- what is varied is e.g.
  - the nature of the imperative stimulus
  - 🛑 the task set
  - experience with the task

# Task set

- examples: number or probability of choices, perceptual quality of imperative stimulus, difficulty of the match between imperative stimulus and learned category ...
- the task set is known to the participant prior to the presentation of the imperative signal

by instruction

by perceptual layout

by learning

task set "preshapes" the underlying representations (pre=before the selection decision)

#### Task set as "preshape"



movement parameter

#### [Erlhagen, Schöner, Psych Rev 2002]

#### Reaction time (RT) paradigm



#### Reaction time task in DFT







[Wilimzig, Schöner, 2006]

#### Hick's law



[Erlhagen, Schöner, Psych Rev 2002]

#### Metric effect

predict faster response times for metrically close than for metrically far choices



[Erlhagen, Schöner, Psych Rev 2002]

## Metric effect: experiment



[McDowell, Jeka, Schöner]



[from Erlhagen, Schöner: Psych. Rev. 2002]





[from McDowell, Jeka, Schöner, Hatfield, 2002]

Behavioral evidence for graded/timecontinuous evolution of selection decisions





[Ghez and colleagues, 1988 to 1990's]





[Favilla et al. 1989]



Experimental results of Henig et al



theoretical account for Henig et al.

Experimental results of Henig et al

[Erlhagen, Schöner. 2002, Psychological Review 109, 545–572 (2002)]





short SR interval: observe preshape

long SR interval: observe stimulus-defined movement plan

### Neural evidence for preshape



complete

precue

[Bastian, Riehle, Schöner: Europ | Neurosci 18: 2047 (2003)]

6

direction

movement

RS

response

signal

750

500

precue

250

PS

[after Bastian, Riehle, Schöner, submitted]

180

240

300

movement direction

360

120

movement direction required in this trial

60

0





[Bastian, Schöner, Riehle 2003]



[Bastian, Schöner, Riehle 2003]

# Working memory

- in decision making, graded influences are seen in the fast/early time course
- working memory probes the opposite limit-case: graded influences are seen in the long run after imperative input is removed



# John Spencer's "space ship" task probing spatial working memory



[Schutte, Spencer, JEP:HPP 2009]



DFT account of repulsion: inhibitory interaction with peak representing landmark



[Simmering, Schutte, Spencer: Brain Research, 2007]

# Working memory as sustained peaks

implies metric drift of WM, which is a marginally stable state (one direction in which it is not asymptotically stable)

- => empirically real.. see extensive work
  - Johnson, J. S., Simmering, V. R., & Buss, A. T. (2014). Beyond slots and resources: Grounding cognitive concepts in neural dynamics. Attention, Perception, and Psychophysics, 76(6), 1630–1654.
    - Simmering, V. R. (2016). Working Memory Capacity in Context: Modeling Dynamic Processes of Behavior, Memory and Development. Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development, 81(3), 1–158.
- => talk by Sebastian Schneegans

# Learning in DFT

Learning is change of behavior based on experience

experience is driven by activation patterns

behavior is generated by neural dynamics

Learning is change of the neural dynamics driven by activation patterns

# Learning: Hebb

projections among fields (or from sensory input to field) evolve according to a dynamic Hebb rule



$$\tau \dot{W}(x, y, t) = \epsilon(t) \Big( -W(x, y, t) + f(u_1(x, t)) \times f(u_2(y, t)) \Big)$$

[Sandamirskaya, Frontiers Neurosci 2014]

### Learning: Hebb

- important in DFT for projections from zerodimensional nodes to fields
- => concepts
- => talks by Mathis Richter, Daniel Sabinasz, Jan Tekülve



#### Learning: memory trace

zero-the order Hebb ~ the bias input in NN

amplified in the boost-driven detection instability

$$\tau \dot{u}(x,t) = -u(x,t) + h + s(x,t) + \int dx' w(x-x') g(u(x',t)) + u_{\text{mem}}$$
  
$$\tau_{\text{mem}} \dot{u}_{\text{mem}}(x,t) = -u_{\text{mem}}(x,t) + g(u(x,t))$$
  
$$\tau_{\text{mem}} \dot{u}_{\text{mem}}(x,t) = 0 \quad \text{if there is no supra-threshold activation anywhere in the field}}$$

#### Learning: memory trace

provides an account for the construction of priors... link to probabilistic thinking

example: Hyman law from the frequency of choices



[Erlhagen, Schöner, Psych Rev 2002]

#### Piaget's A not B paradigm: "out-of-sight -- out of mind"





#### Toyless variant of A not B task



[Smith, Thelen et al.: Psychological Review (1999)]

#### Toyless variant of A not B task reveals that A not B is essentially a decision task!



[Smith, Thelen et al.: Psychological Review (1999)]



[Thelen, et al., BBS (2001)]

#### Instabilities

- detection: forming and initiating a movement goal
- selection: making sensori-motor decisions
- (learning: memory trace)
- boost-driven detection: initiating the action
- memory instability: old infants sustain during the delay, young infants do not



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- detection: forming and initiating a movement goal
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movement parameter

#### Instabilities

- detection: forming and initiating a movement goal
- selection: making sensori-motor decisions
- (learning: memory trace)
- boost-driven detection: initiating the action
- memory instability: old infants sustain during the delay, young infants do not









in spotaneous errors, activation arises at B on an A trial

 which leads to correct reaching on
B trial



that is because reaches to B on A trials leave memory trace at B

![](_page_67_Figure_2.jpeg)

#### DFT is a neural process model

that makes the decisions in each individual trial, by amplifying small differences into a macroscopic stable state

and that's how decisions leave traces, have consequences

![](_page_68_Figure_3.jpeg)

#### Decisions have consequences

a spontaneous error doubles probability to make the spontaneous error again

![](_page_69_Figure_2.jpeg)

[Dineva, Schöner: Connection Science 2018]

### Conclusion

- DFT models of behavior by mapping experimental conditions/measures onto neural states...
- even though this interface is limited, it provides process accounts for sensorimotor cognition
- I will expand this interface when talking about "embodied DFT" next...